

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 04276 131019 Z

10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 GAC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 060596

P 130941 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4472 PRIORITY 4472

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: RP, MASS, PINS

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERY AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING REGARDING GOP
REQUEST FOR ARMS

1. EMBASSY NOTES QUESTION RAISED DURING APR 12 DEPARTMENT
PRESS BRIEFING ASKING IF THERE WERE " REQUEST FROM
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FOR ARMS TO HELP COPE WITH THE
DIFFICULTIES WITH THE MUSLIMS." DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
INDICATED HE WOULD " CHECK" ON THIS MATTER.
2. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THIS
QUESTION WERE NOT PURSUED TO EITHER " YES" OR " NO" ANSER. HOW-
EVER, SHOULD QUERY PERSIST AND IF SPOKESMAN HAS NOT ALREADY
PROVIDED REPLY TO THIS QUESTION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING
LINE TO BE TAKEN: QUOTE.

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, AT VARIOUS LEVELS HAS
DURING RECENT MONTHS MADE A NUMBER OF REQUESTS
FOR EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND
SUPPLIES UNDER OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DEMANDS PLACED ON US SOURCES
AND LINES OF SUPPLY DURING THE VIET- NAM CONFLICT,
A CONSIDERABLE BACKLOG DEVELOPED IN THE DELIVERY
TO THE PHILIPPINES OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES,
WHICH WERE PROGRAMMED AND FUNDED UNDER MAP FOR
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PAGE 02 MANILA 04276 131019 Z

FY 1973 AND PRIOR YEARS. FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN VIET- NAM, WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO ACCELERATE THE DELIVERY OF THOSE ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN THE PIPELINE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. END QUOTE.

3. FYI. PRESS REPORTS WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS SEEN (SUCH AS THOSE WRITTEN BY STERBA, NEW YORK TIMES; FOISIE, LOS ANGELES TIMES; AIKMAN, TIME; AND CLIFTON, NEWSWEEK) HAVE SO FAR HANDLED IN A FAVORABLE MANNER THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE US MILITARY AID IN CONTEXT OF MUSLIM INSURRECTION. BYROADE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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